

February 23, 1976

SENATOR SAVAGE: Go to 682 on General File.

CLERK: Read LB 682.

SENATOR MARVEL: I move that 682 be advanced to E & R Initial. This is a bill that would appropriate money for you for the next year. It is a very important bill. It has to do with the Legislative Council. Senator Mahoney is prepared to discuss it more in detail if you like. For your information, last year the Legislative Council lapsed almost \$800,000 back into the General Fund. The difference in the Governors recommendation and the committee decisions is roughly \$767,752. The total amount is little over 4 million, 100 thousand dollars. The operation of the Legislative Council has been appropriately beefed up in the last few years. You have been given additional staff, additional help and that is what this bill proposes to do. If there are any questions, I would yield to Senator Mahoney, otherwise I renew my motion to advance the bill to E & R Initial.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, members, the present services that you have now which includes your administrative assistant secretary, which is two persons in one. This was instituted in January, 1975 as we allowed ourselves some necessities of help. Were not adding, were just trying to hold the present services that we have. The budget that you had before us here even calls for us to turn back some \$20,000 this next year away from the travel funds. It is taken away because one of the large areas that we attended last year was the mid-west conference which was over in Iowa and it was very close and there were a lot of Senators who wish to participate and they did participate in sessions over there that concerned Medical Malpractice and so forth. Well, in a nut shell what it amounts to in the budget that you have before us, you have to speak of a 90 day session, 90 days runs until June 1st. We are currently operating on a 60 day session and naturally the bills for a 60 day session are a lot less. 90 days versus 60. Next year the budget that you see before us is 90 days. There is built into here that every Senator shall have a secretary-administrative assistant, which is one, not two people. You are not getting any more services than you have got, and of course if you vote against this bill, then we will start having to hook ourselves up to where four of us will be attached to one secretary. We did that some fifteen years ago. I don't think that your folks back home got answers to requests or letters. I don't think that we did a very good job. I think that the budget stands for itself. I think it could have a lot more things in it. Because of the condition of the country and state and all of us are in today, I think that we are asking for just enough funds to get us by in a full 90 day session. Above all of this remember that the printing cost for these bills just takes a lot more money than it did 6, 8, or even 10 years ago. Printing costs are very expensive. So, when we are in session for 90 days, there are those services that people in our districts expect and copies of bills. This is where the money goes to pay for these. No extra services, only retain and keep what you have got now.